

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Madison 6

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

28 October 1947.

Dear Art-

Esther and I were very glad to hear from you, and that you settled your housing problem so well. We're installed in the "University Truax Project", which is a made-over Army Hospital about four miles from the center of town. They have provided us with a two-room apartment sans kitchen or private bath, but there is a cafeteria, bus service, and a good spirit, so that it is by no means a dismal place to live, particularly while there is hope of finding better.

Genetics is a fairly small department here, particularly in comparison with mighty Biochemistry next door with its nearly 300 graduate students. But we treasure our independence, although the activities of the staff are mostly in animal or plant breeding. Brink, however, is a man of extraordinary breadth of interest and has spared no effort to set us up soon and well. My regular lab is abuilding, and should be a fairly adequate, cozy place when it is completed in a year 6. Meanwhile, I have just this week started working in my temporary quarters, and have finally gotten busy after a few weeks of doldrums. I have two lines particularly in mind: transformations of biochemical mutants in coli, and a study of the genetics of carbohydrase mutants of coli (in collab. with Biochemistry)(ie KP Link) in hopes of getting some evidence bearing directly on the so called 1:1 theory. I am also making some considerable progress in arranging or in consulting as the protagonist of a genetic viewpoint for programs on genetics of smuts, Venturia, and some other bacteria. For the bacteriology grad students, I've started a seminar on microbial genetics which is a lot of fun, and, I think, useful for all parties. There is no other teaching beyond one hour's quiz section per week in elementary genetics. The best thing about this campus is the magnitude and diversity of its interests and the way they seem to be taking this newfangled genetics to their hearts. What, by the way is the solution to the nicotinic problem? Your formulation of nic vs. IAA sounds very interesting. What about the IAA-B₁ relationship? What gives?

If you're planning to write a book you'd better count on stopping all work for about 5 years. I've just completed a longish review, and so help me, I don't want to write another thing for a year at least and preferably 10. As for reprints, claim your copies from the pile I sent Beadle a couple of weeks ago. If these aren't enough, send me a card. Give our best to Dale and the Kid.

Sincerely,

